that Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., need not operate the passenger shipping service between Nagapattinam and Singapore, as it is not an economically viable proposition. However, if any private party wants to operate the service, the Government would consider the same favourably.

Retrenchment of Employees in STC

5205. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation propose to retrench its surplus employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the procedure proposed to be adopted in this regard;

(d) how the interests of the SC/ST employees will be protected;

(e) whether all the employees proposed to be retrenched by the STC, will be accommodated in some other Public Sector Organisations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is, at present, no proposal in State Trading Corporation (STC) for retrenchment of employees.

(b) to (f). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Price of Polyester Cloth

5206. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the prices of polyester cloth was increased during the last two years and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to check the prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). At present there is no statutory control on prices of polyester cloth. These are governed by forces of demand-supply and consumers preference. The prices of polyester are reviewed by the government and remedial measures are taken whenever situation warrants. In the past government had held discussions with spinners and weavers of Polyester Filament Yarn and as a result thereof it was possible to facilitate supply of yarn to the weavers at reasonable prices for production of polyester blended fabrics. Frequent fluctuations in the cost of inputs and other elements of cost during the last two years had led to the increase in the retail prices of selected sorts of fabrics with polyester content on number of occasions though it accounted for about 13% between June, 1989 and June, 1991. Further Government feels that prices of such cloth be allowed to be determined by market forces whereby prices are kept under check to some extent on account of interse competition between Mill sector as well as units in powerloom sector.

[*English*]

Demands of RRB Workers Association

5207. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: